

**VGo: Year 1 Pilot with Homebound Students**  
**65<sup>th</sup> EC Conference on Exceptional Children**  
**November 18-20, 2015**

Richard Lemke, Ph.D.  
Principal, Hospital School

Mikeah Sleigh, Homebound Teacher  
Nicole Neal, Hospital Teacher

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The Measure of Tomorrow

65<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

Pilot: Provide robotic-telepresence to connect  
students with schools and classrooms



**Meet VGo**

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Our plan: Provide **Long-term Homebound Students**

- Virtual access to classroom instruction
- In home academic support
- Sustained school connectedness and peer classroom contact
- Transition support back to school

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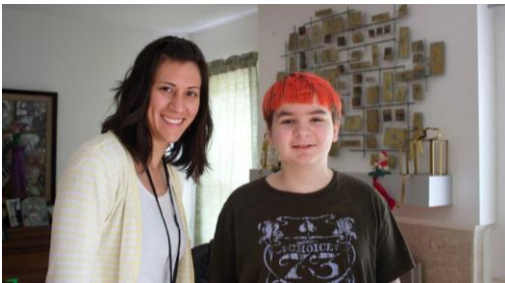
## Anticipated Outcomes

- Improve attendance and instruction
- Increase student's social social presence
- Reduce social isolation
- Support successful transitions
- Provide students increased responsibility

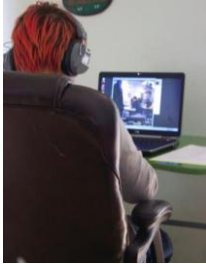
## VGo Pilot Middle School/High School

Mikeah Sleigh, Teacher, Grades 6-12

## Benefits of the VGo Pilot Program



## Challenges



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## Successes



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## Successes



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## VGo Pilot Kindergarten

Nicole Neal, Hospital School Teacher

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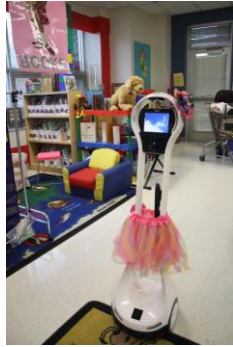
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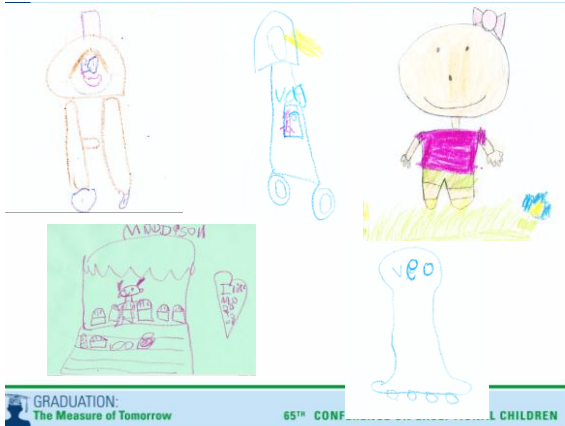
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## VGo Pilot

Technical Demonstration  
&  
Toolkit to Start A VGo Pilot At Your School



## VGo BOT INTERFACE

The remote is used when the driver is not driving the bot. When necessary, it also gives the user the ability to adjust the settings as needed.



## VGo BOT INTERFACE

The VGo uses a standard "jog" interface; it is not a touchscreen.



## VGo SOFTWARE INTERFACE

THIS IS WHAT THE VGo USER SEES  
WHEN DRIVING THE ROBOT



## VGo SOFTWARE INTERFACE

This is how people see the user of the VGo.






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## End of Year Results Max

- After accruing over 100 absences in 2013-14 Max successfully attended classes virtually, earning grades of 95 and above in each course to pass the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- He **established** relationships with each teacher and peers that did not know him from the first year at the school.
- Max successfully transitioned into school and has attended school daily this year without VGo.

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## End of Year Results Maddison

- Maddison received homebound instructional support as a PK student, confined to her apartment and hospital bed.
- Maddison had no social experience with peers or experience in schools prior VGo.
- She successfully attended class virtually in her Kindergarten class on a limited basis and served as the class “weather girl” with Nicole’s support. Maddison is non-verbal.

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## Student 3 Ben

- Ben successfully attended 4 to 5 days of school until we started Ben with VGo in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The school team worked with our staff to modify his course load to capture some credit for the year, relocated the classroom location to maximize access and Ben almost immediately became a 95% plus student.
- He established connections with teachers, peers and successfully completed two courses.
- Ben is attending 2 classes at school when feasible, 2 courses via VGo to earn 4 credits this year.

## Questions for the Presenters

Richard Lemke, Ph.D. Principal, Hospital School

Mikeah Sleight, Homebound Teacher

Nicole Neal, Hospital Teacher

Additional Resources:

Jennifer McIver, OT, Wayne County Schools NC

Michelle Harvey, Teacher Children's Medical Center Dallas TX